

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07646 131637Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 HA-05 CEQ-01 NSF-01
PA-01 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0420
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USDOE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07646

DOE FOR BILLY HILL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, ECE, ENRG, XH, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 091060, (B) GENEVA 5019, (C) 77 MOSCOW
17976 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH REASONING IN REF A ON
QUESTION OF AN ENERGY CONFERENCE. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT
SOVIETS WANT CONFERENCE FOR MOTIVES WHICH PRIMARILY ARE
POLITICAL AND WE SEE LITTLE REASON AT PRESENT TO
ACCOMMODATE MOSCOW ON THIS ISSUE. AS REF A POINTS OUT,
BREZHNEV CONFERENCE PROPOSALS ARE INTENDED IN GOOD PART
TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CSCE
PROCESS. WHILE WE WOULD NATURALLY WANT TO CONSULT WITH
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07646 131637Z

OUR ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE AND WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN
SOLIDARITY WITH THEM, EMBASSY FEELS THAT AFTER THE SOVIET
PERFORMANCE AT BELGRADE IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO
KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON MOSCOW ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO
US WITHIN THE CSCE CONTEXT. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR
ALLIES WE SHOULD STRESS THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE NOW TO
ENABLE THE SOVIETS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE

ACTIVELY FULFILLING THE TERMS OF HELSINKI BY MANEUVERS
SUCH AS CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.

2. FURTHERMORE, WHILE WE WOULD NOT WISH TO CONFUSE
MULTILATERAL WITH BILATERAL ISSUES, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL
NONETHELESS IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES TO RECOUNT
THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN UNWILLING THUS FAR TO EXCHANGE
RELEVANT DATA IN THE BILATERAL FRAMEWORK WITH US. WE
MADE IT CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS LAST DECEMBER (REF C) THAT
CONTINUED PROGRESS IN BILATERAL COOPERATION DEPENDS IN
LARGE MEASURE ON SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A
REAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION FORECASTS, WHICH
ARE OF VITAL CONCERN TO THE U.S. (AS WELL AS TO THE
EC-9). THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT AS YET RESPONDED. HOWEVER,
PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE NOT PROMISING. THE SOVIET
RESPONSE, WHICH WE HAVE ASKED TO BE TRANSMITTED BY
MAY 1, WILL BE ONE TEST OF SOVIET SINCERITY. IF, AS
WE EXPECT, THE SOVIET RESPONSE IS UNSATISFACTORY, IT
WOULD BE HELPFUL SO TO INFORM INTERESTED ALLIES.
TOON

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